

**Report to the Faculty Senate from the Council for Research  
November 17, 2016**

**Angela Slitt, Associate Professor, Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, &  
Chair, Council for Research**

- #1. Background and rationale for change.** A Subcommittee of the Council for Research reviews procedures and distribution of research overhead funds (10.72.10 – see below). The current manual language reads that the Subcommittee shall be chaired by the Vice President for Research and Economic Development and the Chair of the Council for Research shall be Vice Chair. There is an inherent conflict of interest for Dr. Sonnenfeld to be leading a group that is meeting to evaluate the overhead spending and distribution. Both the Council for Research and Dr. Sonnenfeld agree the language should be modified and request that the Council for Research Chair be the Chair for the subcommittee. The following language is to help provide context for the changes to 10.72.11:

**University Manual Chapter 10 – Administrative Procedures**

**10.72.10 Procedure for Revisions to the Distribution of Facilities and Administrative (Overhead) Funds.** At the beginning of each fiscal year, a subcommittee of the Council for Research shall review procedures and distribution of Facilities and Administrative funds (research overhead funds). The review shall: a) evaluate the current expenditure and distribution plan with regard to URI's changing needs and resources; b) examine, as desirable, F&A distribution plans at other peer public research institutions; c) produce a report including, as appropriate, any recommendations for changes in distribution to be considered for implementation in the subsequent fiscal year. #12-13-15

**10.72.11** The subcommittee shall be chaired by ~~the Vice President of Research and Economic Development and~~ the Chair of the Council for Research. ~~shall be Vice Chair.~~ The subcommittee shall ~~also~~ consist of four additional faculty members from the Council for Research elected by the Council before its last meeting in the spring and one designee each of the President, the Provost, and the Vice President for Administration and Finance. The Vice President for Research and Economic Development may be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the subcommittee. #12-13-15

**Proposed changes incorporated:**

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- #2. Rationale for change.** Current language in the University Manual requires that the Council for Research elect its chairperson at the first meeting in September. The FSEC has previously discussed whether the chair should be elected earlier than September so there is continuity for the chairperson role. These changes reflect the most recent input from the Faculty Senate and the Council for Research.

**By-Laws of the Faculty Senate  
Section 4. Powers and Duties of Committees**

**4.55 The Council for Research ...**

**4.56** The membership of the Council shall .... The Council shall elect its chairperson for the year from among the faculty members of the Council at the its first last meeting of each academic year in September. The name of the chairperson shall be made known to the University community and reported to the Faculty Senate and the President. The chairperson shall serve a one-year term and may be re-elected once if his/her appointment to the Council allows. #07-08-8

~~**4.57** The Vice President for Research and Economic Development shall be responsible for calling the initial meeting of the Council each fall. Subsequent mMeetings of the Council shall be held at the call of its chairperson, as often as necessary, but at least twice each semester. Items for its agenda, which may be submitted to the chairperson, shall normally come from the President, the Council of Deans, the Faculty Senate or its Executive Committee, research bureaus and centers, principal investigators, or the Vice President for Research and Economic Development.~~

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